

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 and 19-23 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 1-13, 16-17, and 20 stand rejected on prior art grounds. The Examiner has stated that claims 14-15, 18-19, and 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 17 and 18 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer; hence, the rejection of claim 17 is moot.

It is noted that the claim amendments are made only for more clarifying the language of the claim, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims or for any statutory requirements of patentability. It is further noted that, notwithstanding any claim amendments made herein, Applicant's intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements, even if amended herein or later during prosecution. Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made in the specification and claims by the current Amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

With respect to the prior art rejections, claims 1-5, 8-13, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Ahern* (U.S. Patent No. 6,088,752). Claims 6-7, 16, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ahern*.

These rejections are respectfully traversed in view of the following discussion.

I. THE CLAIMED INVENTION

The present invention is directed to a computer system that includes a mobile computer docking station for receiving a mobile computer, a bridge having a first side coupled to the mobile computer and a second side coupled to the docking station, and a flat panel display formed with the docking station for being coupled to the mobile computer via the docking station. The docking station includes a dock housing coupled to a desktop display and including a first bus, and a bridge coupled between the first bus and a second bus, the first bus residing in the dock housing and the second bus for being coupled to the mobile computer (Application, abstract).

The conventional mobile computer docking stations and port replicators have inefficiencies regarding performance, ease of use, and overhead. Existing docking stations and port replicators provide access to full-size monitors and keyboards for users having portable

computers. However, if the user desires to add additional devices, such as additional hard drives or CD drives, adding the peripherals through the bus system of a portable computer is difficult because of the large number of wires and of the latencies caused by a cable of any significant length.

The claimed invention, as described in claim 1, provides a mobile computer docking station having a high-resolution display where the computer can be detached from the structure of a flat panel LCD display. The system has a dock housing coupled to a desktop display and includes a first bus, a bridge coupled between the first bus, and a second bus for attaching to the mobile computer where the second bus resides in the dock housing. The docking station has a sleeve where the mobile computer is slidably fitted into the docking sleeve and attaches to a connector for the secondary bus. The video adapter of the LCD display is connected to an input/output bus that is housed in the base of the display.

II. THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

The Examiner alleges that *Ahern* anticipates the claimed invention according to 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and renders the invention obvious according to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Applicant submits, however, that there are elements of the claimed invention which are neither taught nor suggested by *Ahern*.

THE AHERN REFERENCE

Ahern discloses a docking system for giving a portable computer access over a first bus to a second bus. The first bus and second bus are each adapted to separately connect to respective ones of a plurality of bus-compatible devices. (abstract) A portable computer is connected to a docking station having an application-specific integrated circuit (ASIC). The ASIC has lines that are connected through a connection assembly to a keyboard and a mouse. Serial lines and parallel lines connect to transceivers and in turn various serial and parallel peripherals, such as printers and modems (col. 7, lines 64-68 to col. 8, lines 1-6).

In addition, *Ahern* has a video means in the station connects to an external monitor, and

the docking station may also have its own internal hard drive. The station may also have a CD-ROM drive mounted in the docking station that connects to the secondary bus through an appropriate adapter card (Ahern, col. 9, lines 10-20).

Applicant submits that this reference does not anticipate claimed invention, as alleged by the Examiner. Claim 1 recites at least the features of “a bridge coupled between said first bus and a second bus, said first bus residing in said dock housing and said second bus for being coupled to the mobile computer with a docking sleeve where said mobile computer is slidably fitted into said docking sleeve and mates with a connector for secondary bus; and a video adaptor of a flat panel display being connected to an input/output (I/O) bus that is housed in a base of said display.”

The connections of *Ahern* between the mobile computer and docking station are through external cables, or “links” 40 and 46 that are connected to a “package 116”(col. 8, lines 48-50). Figure 5 illustrates the “package 116 is shown in position to be connected to a PCMCIA slot in portable computer 126. Computer 126 is shown having primary bus 10 and a host processor 128. Package 116 is shown connected through cable 40, 46 connector 108 on docking station 130.” (Fig. 5; col. 9, lines 5-12) In contrast, the claimed invention does not connect the mobile computer to an external docking station through an external PCMCIA cable having an ASIC controller within the PCMCIA card.

Further, Ahern does not have a flat screen video display integrated into a docking station where the input/output of the display is housed in the base of the display, nor does *Ahern* have a docking station with a sleeve for slidably fitting the computer into the docking station.

Hence, turning to the clear language of the claims, there is no teaching or suggestion of “a docking sleeve where said mobile computer is slidably fitted into said docking sleeve and mates with a connector for secondary bus; and a video adaptor of a flat panel display being connected to an input/output (I/O) bus that is housed in a base of said display.” as recited in claim 1.

For at least the reasons outlined above, Applicant respectfully submits that *Ahern* fails to anticipate every feature of claim 1. Accordingly, *Ahern* fails to anticipate or render obvious the subject matter of claim 1, and claims 2-7 which depend from claim 1; the subject matter of claim 8

and claim 9 which depends from claim 8; and the subject matter of claim 10 and claims 11-13, 16, and 20 which depend from claim 10. Withdrawal of the rejections of these claims is respectfully solicited. By this Amendment, claims 17 and 18 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer; hence the rejection of claim 17 is moot.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that this reference fails to anticipate the claimed invention. In addition, even if *Ahern* was combined with the knowledge of one skilled in the art, the combination would not teach or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention.

That is, turning to the exemplary claim language of independent claim 1, there is no teaching or suggestion of "*a dock housing for being coupled to a desktop display and including a first bus; and a bridge coupled between said first bus and a second bus, said first bus residing in said dock housing and said second bus for being coupled to the mobile computer; a docking sleeve where said mobile computer is slidably fitted into said docking sleeve and mates with a connector for secondary bus; and a video adaptor of a flat panel display being connected to an input/output (I/O) bus that is housed in a base of said display.*"

For the reasons stated above, the claimed invention is fully patentable over the cited references. In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw these rejections.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-16, and 19-23, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

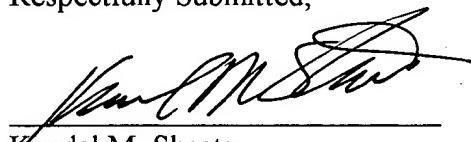
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Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Assignee's Deposit Account No. 50-0510.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 1-2-03


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The first full paragraph on page 1 was amended, as follows:

The present application relates to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/633,806, filed on August 7, 2000, to Sameh Asaad et al., entitled "METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR HIGH RESOLUTION DISPLAY CONNECT THROUGH EXTENDED BRIDGE", having IBM Docket No. YOR9-2000-0175US1, and to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/633,825, filed on August 7, 2000, to Sameh Asaad et al., entitled "METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR TRANSPORTING SIDEBAND SIGNALS THROUGH PHYSICAL LAYER OF EXTENDED BRIDGE", having IBM Docket No. YOR9-2000-176US1, and to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/633,856, filed on August 7, 2000, to Sameh Asaad et al., entitled "COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM INCLUDING SYMMETRIC BUS BRIDGE AND METHOD USED THEREWITH", having IBM Docket No. YOR9-2000-184US1, and to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/633,826 filed on August 7, 2000, to Sameh Asaad et al., entitled "SYSTEM AND INTELLIGENT DOCK USING A SYMMETRIC EXTENDED BUS BRIDGE AND METHOD THEREFOR" having IBM Docket No. YOR9-2000-0015, each of which is incorporated herein by reference.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1, 8, and 10 were amended, as follows:

1. (Amended) A docking station for a mobile computer, comprising:

a dock housing for being coupled to a desktop display and including a first bus; [and]
a bridge coupled between said first bus and a second bus, said first bus residing in said dock housing and said second bus for being coupled to the mobile computer; and
a docking sleeve attached to said dock housing, wherein said mobile computer is slidably fitted into said docking sleeve and mates with a connector for a secondary bus.

8. (Amended) A communication system, comprising:

a mobile computer including an input/output (I/O) bus and a graphics adapter; a desktop display panel for being operatively coupled to said mobile computer; a pointing device for providing inputs for display on said panel; [and] a dock for mating with the mobile computer using a connection over the input/output (I/O) bus to drive the graphics adapter and the panel along with the pointing device[,] ;

a docking sleeve on said dock, wherein said mobile computer is slidably fitted into the docking sleeve and mates with a connector for a bus of the dock,

wherein a base of the desktop display panel is selectively connected to said pointing device, and

wherein computing power is provided by the mobile computer with access to the user's data from the mobile [unit] computer.

10. (Amended) A computer system, comprising:

a mobile computer;

a docking station for receiving said mobile computer;

a bridge having a first side coupled to said mobile computer and a second side coupled to said docking station; and

a flat panel display formed with said docking station for being coupled to said mobile computer via said docking station, an adapter of said mobile computer using one of a serial connector and a parallel connector to mate the two sides of the bridge[.] ;

wherein said flat panel display includes a base, wherein said docking station is mounted on said base, and said base including a peripheral device for storing an additional application and data for when said mobile computer is used in a desktop mode.